

By the Air Route

As soon as President Wilson would give an utterance intended for the world (which includes the German Army), the propaganda section would translate it into German and deliver it by the air route to all the areas within reach. All the news of the German disasters which began in mid-July, the steadily rising total of German prisoners in the Allied pen—these were done into leaflets and delivered to the German front.

There were really two phases of the propaganda—the general arguments, designed to weaken the enemy's will to fight and addressed to all the troops as far back as the airplanes could go, and the specific arguments, intended to persuade a soldier in the front line to throw up his hands and come over.

The aim of the first class may be illustrated by such an insidious little questionnaire as this—questionnaires for him to think over in his bunk at night:

Several questions for German soldiers

1. Will you ever again be as strong as you were in July, 1918?
2. Will your young sons grow daily stronger or weaker?
3. Have your previous losses suffered in 1918 brought you the victorious peace which your leaders promised you?
4. Have you still a final hope of victory?
5. Do you want to give up your life in a senseless sacrifice?

The effect of these arguments, aimed at the German soldier in his rest area could never be measured. The effect of the arguments directly calculated to induce surrender could be measured by the number of Germans who, having obviously read and pondered our suggestions, did actually surrender.

On this class, two of the leaflets sent over worked tremendous havoc in the enemy morale. One was a simple translation of the General Order on the treatment of prisoners, with such telling paragraphs as this in it:

The law and nature of nations will be sacredly defended in the treatment of prisoners of war. They will be accorded every consideration dictated by the principles of humanity. The be-

something only of course we didn't have near so much to worry about as if it had been a inspection.

Spud Morton and me was down towards the tall end of the line and Buck was way up front. So of course Buck got through before we did and he come back and told us what they had done to us. They had was for classification and one of the questions which Buck told us about was What is your occupation. Well Spud says We will have some fun out of the skipper. He says When he asks you what your occupation is you tell him Bolshevik. And then Henry I asked Spud what Bolshevik meant and he said Homosexual. I found that out. I said that sounded good. And so I says Well if I say that you will have to say it to and he said he would. He said he was going to holler Murray for Spartacus. Well Henry I didn't know what that was but of course Spud ought to know if it was all rite etc. because he went to school a year longer than you and I know you know the correct way to skipper asked me about a dozen foolish questions then he asked me what my occupation was and I hollered out Bolshevik hurrah for Spartacus.

Well Henry if you don't know who there is Bolshewiks is and who Spartacus is I will tell you. The Bolshewiks is the ones that is that is trying to run Russia and who is making a awful bull out of it and who is also now trying to make the Spartacus is also making a awful bull out of it. And Henry Spartacus was the guy you remember who we studied about in his history the year Miss Warren taught his story class. He was the main squeeze with the Roman gladiators who used to go out and throw the bulls while the best game I ever saw was the Spartacus and some disk relatives in Germany and in Russia who are crazy enough etc. to believe they are as strong as he was. Well Henry I don't understand just what they are and etc. but I know they are the same ones that had the soldiers and workers come here to make a plan for the future and I see some of them and from their looks I don't think they know what they want. The skipper told me a lot more about them which I can't

remember. Anyway Henry it just goes to show that they don't know just what they want etc. because they don't know any more than I do and you see how much I knowed about them in the first place. Anyway Henry I ain't no Bolshevik or any Spartacus and I ain't going around trying to ruin a country and

the janitor after I am mustered out."

havior of a generous and chivalrous people toward enemy prisoners of war will be punctiliously observed."

Another man, this time a German, came in every prison cage from the Meuse to Grand Pre—just after an invitation to breakfast. It was, typographically, an exact reproduction of the official German field post-card. Its instructions began:

Write the address of your family upon this card and if you are captured by the enemy, please give it to the first allied officer who questions you. He will make it his business to forward it in order that your family may be reassured concerning your situation.

On the other side—the message side—had this greeting to the home folks already ready for the prisoner to sign:

Do not worry about me. The war is over for me. I have good food. The American Army gives its prisoners the same food as its own soldiers. Bread, white bread, potatoes, beans, prunes, coffee, butter, tobacco, etc.

And in every attack launched in the Argentine, Germans came forward through the ranks of the two and three divisions sometimes by companies—each man clamoring for an American officer and demanding an American breakfast, a advertised. And they got it.

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W first to tell you how proud the country is of you; how we've rejoiced and sorrowed with you; prayed for you, worked for you, cheered you. The courageous men and women of our Allies have also had our devotion and admiration, as they have had yours.

Now that the great work is done and success is gained, you will like some word of cheer from home; here's our sincere, heartfelt message of gratitude and good will to you.

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